

Parent Governors

Parent Governors are elected by other parents at the school by ballot. Any parent, or carer, of a registered pupil at the school at the time of election is eligible to stand for election as a **parent governor**.

As a parent governor it will sometimes feel that have to be an expert juggler. You have to know everything about the school, but can't talk about it; you have to be on everyone's side; and people may imagine that you have loads of free time.....and you have to be able to juggle all these expectations. As a parent you will already be an expert juggler, but developing your role as a governor will take time.



But you are not alone. Governors work as a team. No one is expected to know everything and your contribution helps the governing body to support school to be the best it can be. All governors are unpaid volunteers . It is suggested that governors need to allow for a time contribution of around 8 hours per month. There may be new jargon to learn, courses to attend and understanding the way governance works. Induction and training for this role is provided.

Parent governors are:	Parent governors are not:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> well placed to understand parents' views and to remind the governing body how matters being discussed affect parents; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> expected to gather the views of other parents and take them to the governing body;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> individuals! How you vote on any decision is up to you; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> simply expected to represent the interests of parents;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> in a good position to help the governing body to communicate effectively with parents; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a link between parents and the governing body;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> equal in status to all other governors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> expected to vote as instructed by other parents.

Being a governor



Being a governor is a privilege. The only reason governors exist to ensure each and every child in their school receives the very best education possible. We are all there for the same reason.

A governor is a responsible role. **You have the opportunity to make a difference**, not only for children in school now, but for children in years to come.

The role of governors is to provide strategic direction. What happens in school on a day to day basis is the responsibility of the head teacher and SMT, not governors.

Governors are the point of accountability for the senior management of school and governors are school leaders. How well education is delivered, the results achieved and how well the school is financially managed are all part of what governors regularly discuss. The important questions to governance are “why” and “what”. We look at impact and the standards achieved. Understanding both why a decision was made and the impact it has had on learning affects the decision making process.

Governors work as a team. Always be supportive of the collective decision. You must not express personal dissatisfaction at decisions to the wider school community. If you feel strongly say so at the point the decision is being made. Rumours will result in damage to our school which is the last thing you want.

Always observe confidentiality. As a governor you will get to know a lot of highly sensitive and confidential information – don't discuss it with anyone outside meetings. Imagine how you would feel if someone did that to you? The governing body has a code of conduct. The simplest way to be removed as a governor is to reveal confidential information to someone else.



How you can help individual parents?

From time to time you may be approached by other parents asking for help, or wanting to make a complaint about something the school is, or isn't doing.

- ◆ Make it clear you can't act for the governing body.
- ◆ Don't raise expectations that the school will "put it right" – there may be underlying issues or background that you don't know about.
- ◆ Keep an open mind – there are at least two sides to every story!
- ◆ You may need to explain why the governing body has made a decision in a certain way, so be prepared.



What to do if you experience a conflict between being a parent and being a governor

This can happen – especially if you think the governing body is making decisions which you feel will adversely affect your child(ren).

- ◆ If a difficulty arises, take a step back and think things through as objectively as you can
- ◆ If you are concerned, talk to the headteacher or to the chair of governors.
- ◆ Make sure you don't break confidentiality when discussing your concerns outside governing body meetings.

Where to get help, advice and support

All new governors are provided with an induction pack, and encouraged to undertake the new governor training provided by WSCC for all schools and by the NGA on line.

- ◆ From other governors.
- ◆ From the headteacher.
- ◆ From the chair of governors.
- ◆ From the clerk to the governing body.